

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, IN, PK

SUBJECT: UNIONS TO BOYCOTT SHIPS CARRYING ARMS FOR PAKISTAN

REF: BOMBAY 566

1. GEORGE MEANY REPLY TO KULKARNI CABLE MENTIONED PARA TWO REFTEL ON ABOVE SUBJECT DELAYED UNTIL MARCH 21, OWING AFL- CIO PRESIDENT' S VISIT TO IRELAND, WHERE HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMAN' S ASSOCIATION (ILA) PRESIDENT TEDDY GLEASON. FOLLOWING IS MEANY RESPONSE SENT KULKARNI MARCH 21 QTE RE YOUR CABLE MARCH 16, AFL- CIO DOES NOT FEEL PAKISTAN IS A MILITARY THREAT TO INDIA, EVEN LESS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES.
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NONETHELESS, WE WILL INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT OF ARMS SHIPMENTS, CONCERNING WHICH WE ARE POORLY INFORMED. SGD GEORGE MEANY UNQTE.

2. ACCORDING TO AFL- CIO, GLEASON IS IN LONDON, UNAWARE KULKARNI CABLE TO MEANY. HOWEVER, MEANY' S REPLY WILL BE READ VIA TELEPHONE TO GLEASON ON MARCH 22.

3. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE- HARRY BRIDGES' WEST COAST INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN' S AND WAREHOUSEMEN' S UNION WAS UNAWARE IF KULKARNI HAD CABLED BRIDGES BUT SAID IT UNLIKELY ILWU WOULD SUPPORT SUCH BOYCOTT PROPOSAL, WHICH INVOLVES POLITICAL ISSUES. REPRESENTATIVE ADDED THAT

ONLY TIME HE RECALLED ILWU INVOLVEMENT IN THIS TYPE BOYCOTT OCCURRED 1938-1939, WHEN IT OPPOSED SCRAP IRON SALES TO JAPAN. MOREOVER, ILWU REP COULD NOT RECALL THAT ANY US CARRIERS OPERATED SERVICE TO INDIA OUT OF WEST COAST PORTS. REMARKED IT UNLIKELY SMALL NUMBER INDIAN NATIONALS RESIDENT WEST COAST WOULD VOLUNTEER FOR PICKETING DUTIES IF BOYCOTT EVER MATERIALIZED.

4. BOTH AFL- CIO AND ILWU SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLE REASONS FOR KULKARNI BOYCOTT ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE TRACED HIS WISH NOT BE UPSTAGED BY INDIAN LEFTIST TRADE UNION ELEMENTS, PLUS DESIRE INGRATIATE SELF WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY U. S. LABOR WILL RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY THIS TIME TO KULKARNI' S APPEAL. ROGERS

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